

REMARKS

Claims 12-31 were presented for examination in the present application and remain pending for consideration upon entry of the instant response. Claim 31 is withdrawn. Claims 1-11 are canceled. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to file a divisional application directed to the subject matter of the non-elected claims.

The Office Action requires restriction under 35 U.S.C 121 and 372. The Office Action further contends that the application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1: the apparatus of Group I (claims 12-30) and the method of Group II (claim 31). Applicant elects the invention of Group I, which includes claims 12-30.

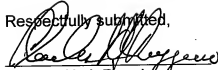
Applicant respectfully submits that claims 12-31 relate to a single general inventive concept as required by PCT Rule 13.1 and, as such, search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Requirement for Restriction with regard to non-elected Group II.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for examination. Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and passage of this application to allowance.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicant's attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

July 26, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles N. J. Ruggiero", written over a horizontal line.

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